

## **REMARKS**

In response to the above Office Action, claim 1 has been cancelled and replaced by new claim 2 to avoid the claim objections and the rejections under §112, second paragraph and §101. It is believed claim 2 complies with the requirements of §112 and §101 and their withdrawal as grounds of rejection of the claim is requested.

In the Office Action the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,374,015 to Gies.

A distinguishing feature of applicants' invention, as set forth in new claim 2, is the cross-section of the groove in the wall of the hole that reduces in a direction away from the hole wall. See groove 32 in FIG. 2 and page 3, lines 30-31. Also, the claimed chamfered, mutually opposed edge areas of the pin and the element of the first object. See edge areas 36 and 38 in FIG. 2 and page 3, line 32 to page 4, line 3.

In Gies, the cross-section of the groove in object 1 in which stopper 15 sits does not have the claimed cross-section. Nor do the mutually opposed areas of pin 3 and element 20 that abut against the part of stopper 15 that projects away from the groove have chamfered surfaces.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 2 cannot be considered to be anticipated by Gies. Its withdrawal as a ground of rejection of the claim under §102 is therefore requested.

New claim 3 more specifically claims the shape of the first section of the stopper, support for which can be found in FIG. 2 and on page 3, lines 31-32 of the specification. It is believed this claim also distinguishes over Gies, not only because it is dependent from claim 1, but also because stopper 15 in Gies does not have a similar shape.

It is believed claims 2 and 3 are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

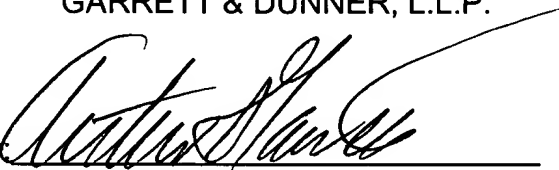
Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: October 5, 2006

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arthur S. Garrett', is written over a horizontal line.

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